

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Glendive Trap Club, Inc.

2. Type of Proposed Action: Club House Construction

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The range is approximately 1 mile northeast of Glendive, Montana in Dawson County. The club is on a triangular piece of land in the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W ½ NW ¼) of Section 19, Township 16North, Range 56 east, M.P.M., described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point 987 feet North and 385.7 feet East of the West Quarter corner of said Section 19; thence North 40°36' East 657.3 feet; thence South 30°9' East 577.2 feet; thence North 90°0' West 717.7 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.11 acres, more or less.

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Construction of a new clubhouse is necessary for the increased number of shooters and shooting events in the Glendive area. There is a need for improved training, education, administrative and storage space to accommodate the increasing and varied uses of the club facilities. There is a need for a new facility to provide a comfortable and secure location for spectators, shooters and the handicapped during club events, with bathrooms and a kitchen facility.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): The objective is to provide increased opportunity to participate in safe organized and efficient operations with increased shooting opportunities. The larger more usable clubhouse is necessary to accommodate the increasing numbers of users and shooting activities. This will ultimately result in a better training or educational environment for the club, other user organizations, law enforcement, hunter education, and the public. The new clubhouse will provide shelter from the weather and improved safety and efficiency of the range.

The new facility will be fully handicapped assessable.

7. Map:

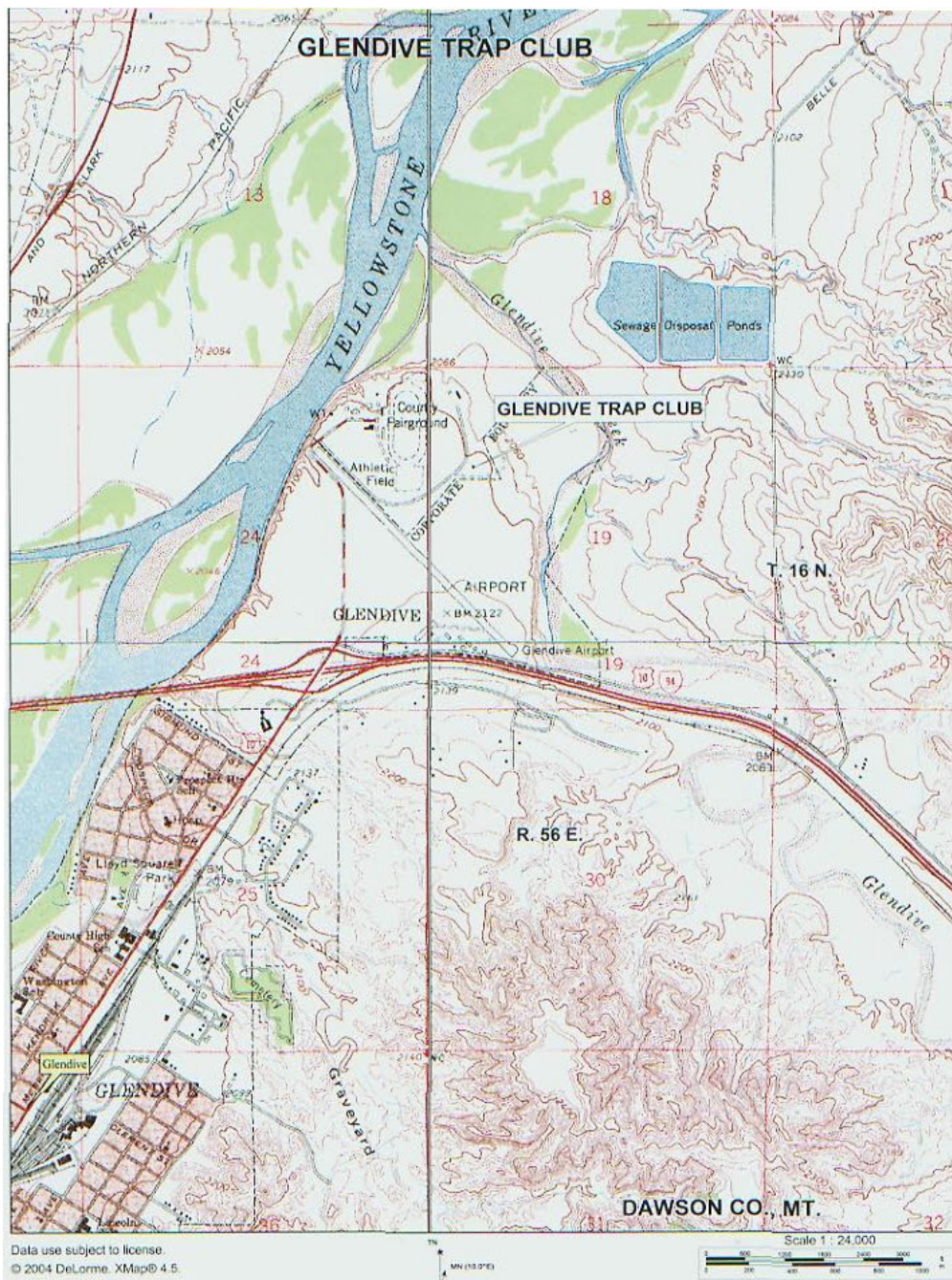


Figure 1 - Location of Glendive Trap Club



Figure 2 - Aerial photo of Glendive Trap Club, outlined in red.



Figure 3 - Aerial Close-up of Trap Club

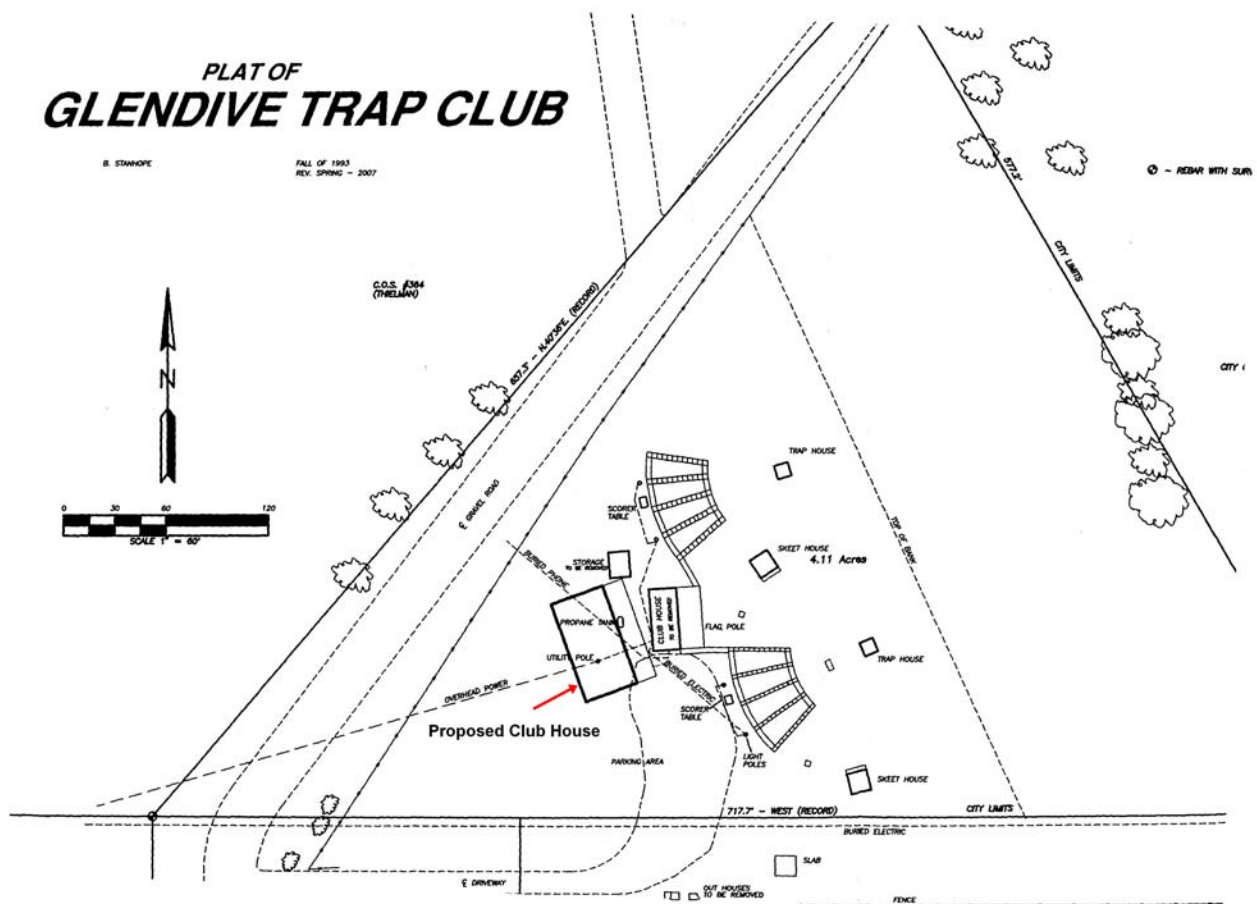


Figure 4 - Plat of Glendive Trap Club, Showing location of new club house, with bathrooms, kitchen and storage.

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected: Site is a 4.11 acre parcel of land located just northeast of Glendive, MT as described in Paragraph 3. However, the improvements are limited to a much smaller area within the actual range area as shown in Figure 4.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project): The range parcel is located on club owned property. The trap club has been in existence on this site since 1940 or 67 years. At one time in the 40s gravel was quarried on the east side, by the club to fund its operations. There is private property to the north and west of the range. A long time club member owns 40+ acres of pasture on the north and west side of the club, and he is also the nearest neighbor, being about ¼ mile away. The next nearest neighbor is the Regional Prison located to the south, which also includes the Sheriff and Police office/dispatch center. Dawson County owns the property to the east and south. The county uses the east side as storage for old, retired equipment and the local law enforcement institution has a pistol shooting range there. The airport shown on the map is now abandoned.

10. Description of Project: Construct new 60'X32' Clubhouse. Construction is broken down into seven components for budgeting, labor in-kind and matching funds: (1) Surveying & Layout (2) Concrete Forming & Pouring (3) Building Materials & Construction (4) Electrical (5) Plumbing (6) Septic system (7) Furnace. New clubhouse will have meeting/training/common area, storage room, men's & women's bathrooms, a kitchen and a covered patio. See floor plan (Fig. 5).

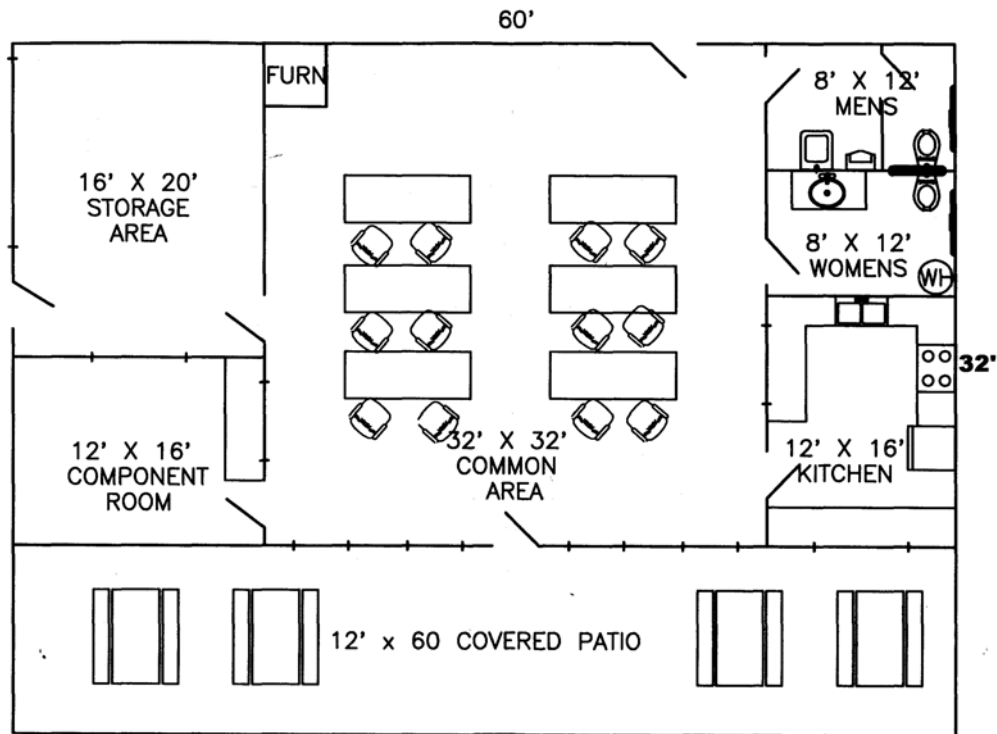


Figure 5 - New Clubhouse floor plan

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

Agency Name	Permit
Dawson County, Montana	Building & Sanitation Permits

Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$52,498.50

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: Jaycees conduct BB gun education and safety training at the club. The new clubhouse will now accommodate the Hunter Education program, and once the availability of the new clubhouse is known law enforcement and other community organizations will be able to use the facilities. Range usage is projected to increase by 50% for all organizations with the construction of the new clubhouse.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. Additionally the new club house plans were discussed with the Hunter's Safety Program representative and the Glendive Jaycees, BB Gun Shooter's Education Program.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Stacy Aguirre
P.O. Box 1265
Glendive, MT 59330
359-7273

16. Other Pertinent Information: Glendive Trap Club has been in existence since 1940 and has been on its current location for the past 67 years. The range facilities are above the flood plain. Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 23, 2007.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist - The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5. The Glendive Trap Club is fenced, all the way around, with steel posts and barbed wire. The main gate and entrance to the club is locked when not in use. The range is located in a secure location, with our nearest neighbor and club member driving by the range almost daily. Additionally, the Law Enforcement Center is only 700 feet to the south. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants, the public at large, and the proposed improvements will further enhance safety on the range.

7. A Statement of Commitment was included with the grant application to confirm their commitment to grant access to the public and hunter education programs. The range does provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) building a new clubhouse.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active trap range using the older smaller club house, with no new improved and larger clubhouse being constructed.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Two alternatives have been considered, A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences for the acceptance of alternatives **A** to provide an improved and larger clubhouse to accommodate meetings, training and administrative functions of the club in addition to the added safe storage space.
- The No Action Alternative would be not to build a new clubhouse and the range would continue with the older smaller club house. Land use would remain the same. Present activities of the range without the proposed improvements would continue. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Stacy Aguirre, P.O. Box 1265, Glendive, MT 59330

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Glendive Trap Club. The low impact activity proposed, and the increased educational and administrative benefits that support the increased recreational opportunities, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 67 year history of the Glendive Trap Club providing safe shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the Glendive Trap Club's new clubhouse as outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 21, 2007

PART V. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None Required

Describe public involvement, if any:

None